

Literature

John Kendrick Bangs contributes to Harper's Weekly a timely poem, in a vein of charming sentiment, called "The Closing Year." It runs as follows:

The poets sadly sing sad thoughts of dying years,
And drench the listening world with their poetic tears—
Not thus with me!
The coming hour of time passes swift but victory,
A fleeting sign of time completed is not dead,
Nor fills my soul with thoughts of sadness and of dread,
Nor thoughts of e'er rounded out, in stature full,
A record writ in characters indelible,
And if ourselves have lived it well, from day to day,
A memory to cherish and to love for aye!

A NEW YEAR'S SONG.

Not a single emerald ember,
Not a glint or gleam of gold,
Gilds the garden where for warden
Broods the pallid wrath of Cold:
Snow-clives down the gray sky flying
Hither, thither, swift and sheer,
Bugler waits to wind replying,
Welcome in the youngling year.

Far along the river border
All is frosted, all is frigid:
Leafless dingle, rim-white shingle,
Line the barren reach of shore;
Yet where steady reaches glisten,

And fleet skaters dart and veer,
Gleeful voices—ah, but listen!
Welcome in the youngling year.

What although he strewn behind us
Wrecked ambitions, broken aims,
Ever vernal, aye, eternal,
Hope's irradiant pharos flames:
Let us then with valiant chorus
Lift our hail to Januvere,
Face with faith what lies before us—
Welcome in the youngling year!
—Clinton Scollard in the Columbian Magazine.

NOTES

Amelia Rivers, who pictures Italian country folk in her new novel "Pan's Mountain," tells this anecdote of the blithe and shrewd peasant character. "A large stone lay half-buried on the land of a very anxious old man, and there were curious characters and numbers cut on its face. The old man became convinced that treasure was hidden under it, and so he sent for some learned people that he knew, and they made out that the inscription meant that it would be a good thing to move the stone from its bed. He got many workmen and gave them much money, and at last, behold! there was the stone turned over on its side upon the grass. They found no treasure, but they found more writing on the other side. It said, 'You did well to turn me, my side ached!'"

The dramatic rights to "Tama," the Japanese story by Onoto Watana published only a few weeks ago, have been secured by David Belasco, and it is announced that he will make the play in connection with the author. "Tama" tells the story of a young American, a Japanese and his sweetheart, called the "fox-woman," who is in reality the daughter of a Japanese priestess. "Tama" is the fourth of Onoto Watana's Japanese books and the second to be dramatized. "A Japanese Nightingale" was produced on the stage a few years ago.

The same week that Margaret Deland's newest book, "The Way to Peace," was published by the Harpers her well known volume "Old Chester" was published in Germany under the title "Alt Chester Geschichten." The translation was made by Louise Ohler. Mrs. Deland has departed from Old Chester in the scenes of "The Way to Peace," most of which are laid in a Shaker community. This new story has the same sympathetic atmosphere, however, and deals with the responsibility of following an impulse, even when the impulse is for good.

Edmond Rostand's "L'Aiglon," published in this country by the Harpers, has been in demand the last few weeks because of Sarah Bernhardt's performance of the play. In one city where she made but a single appearance she chose "L'Aiglon" and 50 copies of the book were sold to the audience followed the performance with the help of the English text. In New York the libraries have put out all their copies of "L'Aiglon" since the Bernhardt engagement began.

Emerson Hough, the author of "The Purchase Price," is a keen big hunter. He has the scars of more than a dozen bears to his credit. The Chicago Herald said, not long ago, that he was going to Africa, like T. R., for big game. But it's really Asia that Mr. Hough has his eye on. In the northeast corner of China there is a particular kind of long-haired tiger in which he is very much interested.

Mr. Hough has, however, found plenty of sport in this continent. He has hunted bear in all the Rockies from Mexico to Alaska, and has fished pretty much all the waters between those extremes. He is a crack shot with a rifle or shotgun. He has never allowed anyone to know whether or not he is a good shot with a six-shooter, and carefully refrains from shooting at a mark with that weapon. He has often been asked whether he ever had personal trouble any place in the West, and he is very shy about answering that question also. As to the West being tough, he holds that it never was as dangerous as the large cities are now.

Mary Roberts Rinehart, her doctor husband and her three lively youngsters, have spent the fall and early winter at Semmering, the St. Moritz of Austria, a wonderful place in the Austrian Alps. About 25 American doctors and their wives, with a scattering of single folk, gathered at Semmering for "Thanksgiving day." They had a chateau to themselves, and the Haystack made a wonderful celebration—a big turkey dinner, with a burning plum pudding—all the comforts of home except cranberry sauce. And in the evening they had music from Vienna and a dance. The chateau is far up on a mountain side. The Rinehart boys tried sliding, but most of the party coasted. The snow was very deep and the coasting something to dream of. They had one sled-track down the mountain over a mile long. "After that," writes the author of "When a Man Marries and The

LEAVES FROM OLD ALBUMS.



MRS. GEORGE KNOX AS A GIRL.

The above cut is from a photograph of Mrs. George Knox, formerly Miss Ardelle Cummings of this city, and now of San Francisco. Miss Cummings, at the time the photograph was taken was one of Salt Lake's most popular and charming belles, and was also known through her talent as a violinist, her musical ability being specially marked. Mrs. Knox is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin E. Cummings, formerly of this city, and a granddaughter of Bishop H. B. Clawson.

BOOKS

"The Spirit of Democracy" is the title which Dr. Lyman Abbott, the editor of "The Outlook," gives to his new book, just published by Houghton Mifflin Co. It is a searching and inspiring discussion of the essential principles of Democracy. Dr. Abbott's wide knowledge of economic conditions, and vigorous idealism have never been fused in a more notable book. Some of the chapter headings are: "Present Conditions in Industry," "Political Socialism," "The Tendency of Democracy," "The Home, the Church, the School," "Who Should Govern?" etc.

"The Mastersinger," by Frank R. Rix, A.B., M.D., director of music public schools, New York city, cloth, large 8vo, 192 pages, price, 65 cents; American Book company, New York Cincinnati and Chicago. This collection of choruses and part songs is arranged and adapted for the classroom, and for large and small assemblies. The selections may be sung by untrained voices, or when changed voices are available, with an optional bass—a plan which meets actual conditions in the school. The book contains some of the choicest compositions of Mendelssohn, Handel, Beethoven, Mozart, Wagner, Gounod and Verdi, together with songs by more modern composers such as Richard Strauss, Mascagni, Raff, Klug, and Elgar. Pupils in high schools and in upper grades of elementary schools are capable of singing the very best music, and in this collection they are afforded an opportunity of doing so.

"Schrakamp, Ernests and Heiteres," edited by Josef Schrakamp. A collection of short stories for the first and second years of German. The stories are selected from the works of modern writers—Baumbach, Bluthgen, Eber-Eschenbach, Eschstruth, Frapan, Prommel, Heims, Rosenger, Trojan and Werner—and most of them have been before him edited for school use. They include several sketches in lighter vein, which, with the freshness of the material, insure the sustained interest of the student. A complete and full vocabulary accompany the text.

"Weill's Historical French Reader," by Felix Weill, instructor in French, college of the City of New York. Thirty selections for second year reading, each with a complete episode, from Martin, Julian, Froissart, France, Michelet, de Barante, Hugo, Mignet, Fennel, Tallemand des Beaux, Taine, Hamilton, Normand, Saint-Simon, Roussier, de Saint-Vaistre, Marmontel, Moreau, Lamar-tine, Thiers, Marbot, Merimee, Sarcely, and Loti. The original text has been preserved as far as possible; but the abridgement of the Chanson de Roland and the selection from Froissart have been rewritten in modern French, and the text has been shortened, especially in the first half of the book.

MAGAZINES

The present year of the century is its forty-first; and its program, although necessarily incomplete at this time, promises a rich and full career. Professor Ernest Horn, features are Robert H. Cichens's new serial story, "The Dweller on the Threshold," Dr. McGuffey's "Life of Martin Luther," Froissart's "The History of France," William Winter's papers on "Shakespeare on the Stage," Timothy Cole's Masterpieces of American Galleries, and a notable series of papers on "The Trade of the World."

The notable biographical feature of the century during 1911 will be a history of "Martin Luther and His Work," written by Mrs. A. McGuffey. Professor Horn's Church History in Union Theological Seminary—a biography which aims to picture not only the stern monk whose rebellion against the church of Rome changed the religious history of the world, but also as a man, a real, living, human man. The life will present much new material in both pictures and text.

The drama in America will be given prominent place in The Century during 1911. There will be a paper by David Belasco on "The Theater and the Box-office," and a sketch of the history of the drama, the performance of "Pelléas and Melisande," in which she and her husband took part at their home, the abbey of St. Wandrille in France. Other papers will include a sketch of Mrs. Fiske and what she has accomplished for the American stage.

St. Nicholas will follow its recent articles on the making and flying of aeroplane models, with articles during 1911 on the development and progress of flying-machines and with a stirring story of air adventure, "Andrew Hastings, Aviator."

Price Collier recently returned to New York after a long absence, having spent about a year in India and the Far East, and then made a journey to South America. Mr. Collier's book, "England and the English from an American Point of View," is expected to be a most interesting study of the English character and the ruling class in India, and he has written for Scribner's Magazine a striking series of articles beginning in January on "The West in the East," particularly England's rule in India, and with special reference to America's own problems as a power in eastern affairs.

Henry van Dyke's story in the January Scribner has for its hero the Prodigal Son. Dr. Van Dyke's journeys in the Holy Land have enabled him to give picturesqueness and reality to the background of his tale.

Ernest Thompson Seton, in the January number of Scribner's Magazine, estimates the total number of caribou in the barren grounds at 30 millions. He finds that the number killed by Indians

and Esquimaux is of no particular importance with reference to the natural increase of this great herd.

When darkness sets in and the night force relieves the day force in the terminal yards of a railway, a new set of conditions, new duties and problems are immediately encountered. Then begins what Mr. J. O. Pagan, himself a real signalman, looks on as the hardest and most perilous of all the work done in operating a great railway. He describes it in an article of much interest which he has written for The Youth's Companion. As a mere boy, Santos-Dumont became infatuated with one great idea—the conquest of the air. "The happiest hours of my life," he says, "were those spent in making light aeroplanes out of bits of straws moved by screw-propellers." In an article he has written for The Youth's Companion he describes his various experiments with both balloons and aeroplanes, some of which landed him in very tight places without lessening his enthusiasm for the pursuit to which he has devoted his life.

Francis, "Easy Standard French," by Victor E. Francis, associate professor of French, College of City of New York.

Thirty stories, for second year reading, each complete in itself and prefaced by a short biography of the author. The selections, typical of the best French prose, are grouped by centuries. The authors represented are Racine, Molière, de Sévigné, Molière, Lesage, Saint-Pierre, Beaumarchais, Chateaubriand, Hugo, Sand, Erckmann-Chatrian, Daudet, Coppée, France, Maupassant, La Fontaine, Bossuet, La Bruyère, Fenelon, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Mme. de Staël, Lamartine, Cousin, Balzac, Leconte de Lins, Flaubert, About, Loti, and Marguerite. The selections offer the greatest possible variety of subjects and style, and are full of action and interest.

Guerber's "Joan of Arc"—French composition, by H. A. Guerber, cloth, 12mo, 63 pages, with notes and vocabulary. Price, 20 cents. American Book company, New York, Cincinnati and Chicago.

This French prose composition is based on the principle that the best work can be done through the use of material which is in itself interesting and consecutive. The present account of the life and exploits of Joan of Arc, is written in an agreeable style, adapted to the purpose in view; and is provided with copious footnotes indicating by rearrangement of the English words the equivalent French construction. For the convenience of students of different grades of advancement, a full vocabulary is appended.

Earhart's "Art Songs for High Schools," by Will Earhart, supervisor of music, Richmond, Indiana.

These songs were selected not only for their value in training the pupils in music, but also for their artistic content. As a result, they will stimulate the imagination and quicken the desire for a closer acquaintance with what is best in music. At the same time they are carefully graded and well suited to school purposes. The collection includes both old favorites of high grade, and many new compositions adapted to current singing besides nonsectarian hymns, and patriotic songs, there are many songs for particular occasions and seasons, as well as numerous chorus numbers of a general nature.

The general excellence of the American Magazine is what appeals to the reader. Experts in the business say that no periodical now published is attracting more attention, or winning more enthusiastic approval, than the American Magazine. It is a publication which exhibits unusual energy, liveliness, candor, courage and humor. No one who reads it can ever forget its distinctive quality. It is as much of a "character" as exists anywhere—and

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One of the great achievements of the American Magazine is its contribution to national journalism through its important and authoritative fast articles, now running, by Ida M. Tarbell, Hay Stannard Baker, A. J. Nock and other writers, all of whom are the ablest experts in the country in their special fields.

Another remarkable characteristic of the American Magazine is the quality of its fiction, plus the story quality that is to be found in many of its articles. By this is meant the fact that this particular periodical requires that many of its most important articles be told in story form. In this manner the pages of the whole magazine fairly teem with down human interest.

On the whole the American Magazine is winning great favor because of its sound tone of real optimism—not silly, flate and fake optimism; but that optimism which is founded on the solid truth that you ought to do your job well wherever you are, and that if you do you will get some sort of a reward for it here on earth—not necessarily money (which most of us foolishly use as the only yardstick of success), but perhaps an inner feeling of satisfaction which, if your skin is not too tough, may be transferred and exhibited in a gentle face—something decent to look at, and not calculated to score all the affection out of those who come into daily contact with you.

DICKENS' CENTENARY STAMP NOW ON SALE.

The Charles Dickens Centenary Testimonial Stamp is now on sale. The stamps are published in sheets of twelve with a half-inch margin on which is printed "Issued under the auspices of the Dickens Centenary Testimonial Committee for the purpose of raising a fund for the benefit of the descendants of Charles Dickens, and should the proceeds permit of it, other ways commemorating his memory." Together with this announcement are also printed a few names of the committee, including Lord Rosebery, Alverstone, Tennison, Strathcona and Avebury, Joseph Chamberlain, Thomas Hardy and Theodore Roosevelt. The stamps are beautifully printed on hand-made steel plates, each sheet of stamps contained in a centenary envelope may be purchased for 25 cents at the principal booksellers and news agents.

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS.

The following 35 volumes will be added to the public library Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1911:

MISCELLANEOUS.
Aldworth—Transformed Colony.
Galsworthy—Justice.
Grayson—Advantages in Friendship.
Illinois—Bureau Labor Statistics—Cherry Mine Disaster.
Judson—Myths and Legends of the Pacific Northwest.

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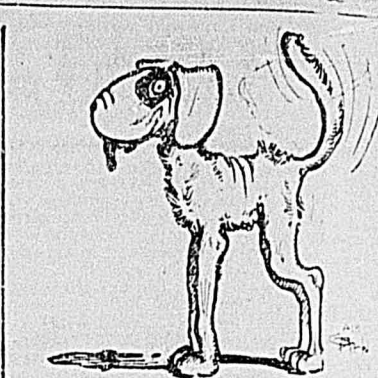
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